

**“DOES THE RESURRECTION OF  
JESUS REALLY MATTER?”**  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20

## INTRODUCTION

Paul now addresses the *doctrine* of the Corinthians, not their behavior. For that reason the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter is even more important than all of the previous chapters. The Corinthians were skeptical concerning the Resurrection. Our natural bent is toward unbelief. That was the condition of most of the children of Israel during the 40 years of wandering, **Hebrews 3:12**. Some in Corinth thought the Resurrection of Jesus was not possible. This whole chapter is born from the problem of unbelief.

Even today, such as in the UK, fewer than 1 in 3 Christians believe in the word for word account of the Resurrection. Some would believe a Greco/Roman history book rather than Scripture. However, even non-scriptural accounts of history are filled with miracles. Dr. Craig Keener has a 2 volume set, *Miracles*, which documents the supernatural healing accounts of those who were blind and lame. Even rising from the dead is spoken of in his work!

## REPERCUSSIONS OF NO RESURRECTION

There are seven repercussions listed by Paul *if* the Resurrection of Jesus did not happen.

- 1) If Jesus didn't rise, then many other passages are not real!
- 2) Our preaching is pointless. There is no Good News. **Psalm 16, 22, 69, Isaiah 52, 53** must mean someone other than Jesus.
- 3) Our faith is pointless, empty. Without the Resurrection, Jesus is only a man.
- 4) We are false witnesses. We would be propagating a lie. Jesus was then lying when he predicted His rising in **Matthew 26, Matthew 12** and **John 2**.
- 5) We are still in our sins! If Jesus isn't Savior then there is no forgiveness and **Colossians 2:14** is not true. **Romans 8** can't be counted on.
- 6) Those that have already died have perished. They are not in heaven and there are no rewards. **1 Thessalonians 4** would be wrong, along with **Daniel 12, Ephesians 3, Hebrews 2:10**, and there is no Kingdom to come.
- 7) We are the most miserable people! There is no future as laid out by the Word. We have wasted our time and our lives if the Resurrection is not true!

## CONSIDER

All of Paul's thoughts about the Resurrection are very rational and logical. It is time that we all thought about the implications of what we choose or choose not to believe! **“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” 1 Corinthians 15:20 NKJV.**

The Resurrection of Jesus is the linchpin of Christianity. Without this, Christianity comes crashing down. It's either all true or all false. (If you take part out, you've made your own religion! We just cannot just pick and choose). All of the flaws of Christians, worldwide, do not negate the truth that the Resurrection happened. What do *you* believe?

## PRAY .....

- \* That the Christian body would believe God at His Word!
- \* That our Resurrection service would draw even the most distant of souls to see Jesus as the risen Lord!
- \* That many who have walked away from God would return to their first love!